GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2892
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010
DRUG RESISTANT SUPERBUG
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a study, drug resistant superbug named after the national capital New Delhi mettalo-beta-lactamase 1 (NDM-1) has been originated in the country;

(b) if so, the facts alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken so far by the Government to contest the findings of the study and also to provide health care facilities to the affected patients;

(d) whether the said bug is fast spreading in the country;

(e) if so, the number of such cases reported so far in the country; and

(f) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b) Recently an article was published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases where the presence of carbapenem resistant enterobacteriaceae due to a metallo beta lactamase enzyme −NDM-1 (New Delhi metallo beta lactamase-1) had been reported and the origin of this bacteria had been traced back to India and Pakistan. The Govt. denied this allegation as the origin of NDM-1 from India has not been conclusively proven in the article.

(c) to (f) Following this article, a series of meetings have been organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the chairmanship of Director General Health Services (DGHS). Five subcommittees have been constituted by DGHS to address various issues like - review the use /misuse of various antibiotics in hospitals and infrastructure for disposal and management of antibiotic related waste, establish a national surveillance system for anibiotic use, documentation of prescription patterns of medical practitioners, enforcement and enhancement of existing rules and bring in force the regulatory provisions for antibiotic use in humans and veterinarians along with formulation of a national antibiotic policy.

ICMR has constituted an expert group on Antimicrobial Resistance. The first meeting of the expert group was held in October 2010 in which various researchable issues on "Antimicrobial Resistance" have been identified.